

MISSIO Scotland in Argyll



Fr. MacLean

Missio Scotland is preparing the Church for the Mission Month of October. The high point of the month is Mission Sunday 18th October. On that day every parish in the world is invited to share what they can to help the growth and development of the new Church in mission areas.

Each diocese in Scotland has a Diocesan Mission Director who plays a vital role in the work of Missio Scotland. The Director for Argyll & The Isles Diocese is Fr. William Maclean in St. Margaret's Parish, Lochgilphead. Fr. Maclean came back to Scotland from working in Salamanca and brings a fresh perspective to the Missio Meetings.

The Diocesan Directors help steer the work of Missio, working together with the staff at the office in Coatbridge. Missio Scotland is our local branch of the Holy Father's Pontifical Mission Societies and reports directly to the Vatican via the National Director, Fr. Pat McGuire SMA. With the help of the Diocesan Directors Missio promotes and administers the mission charities, Propagation of the Faith, The Society of St. Peter the Apostle and Missionary Children.

The name 'Missio' symbolises unity in faith and mission, overseeing the support given to every one of the 1,069 mission dioceses in the world through an effective collection of funds and support according to its specific needs. These include supporting 194,855 schools, 5,246 hospitals, 17,530 dispensaries, 577 leprosy centres and 80,560 social and pastoral projects worldwide. Funds collected in each diocese of Scotland are sent directly to local bishops in the mission territories.

Pope Benedict XVI drew attention to the importance of mission and the work of Missio in his message for World Mission Sunday. He expressed his appreciation of the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies (now Missio)

"By looking at St Paul 's experience, we understand that missionary activity is a response to the love with which God loves us. His love redeems us and prods us to the Mission "ad gentes". It is the spiritual energy that can make the harmony, justice and communion grow among persons, races and peoples to which everyone aspires."

"I cannot fail to point out with sincere appreciation the contribution of the Pontifical Mission Societies to the Church's evangelizing activity. I thank them for the support they offer to all the Communities, especially the young ones. They are a valid instrument for animating and forming the People of God from a missionary viewpoint, and they nurture the communion of persons and goods between the different parts of the Mystical Body of Christ."

In Scotland, the Pontifical Mission Societies are best known through the activities of the Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF), the Society of St Peter the Apostle (SPA) and Missionary Children (Holy Childhood). For more information look on our website.

www.missioscotland.org.uk